

Volume 46 — November 2024

TUARP TIMES

Trent University Association of Retired Persons

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Faculty Co-Chair: To be named

Staff Co-Chair: Gina Collins 2022 - 2024

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Propulsion Through Purposeful Collaboration

By Tony Storey

In preparing this issue of TUARP Times, I visited Peter Gzowski College, Traill College and Trent Durham GTA. Many thanks to Dr. Scott Henderson, Kevin Maina, Dr. Melanie Buddle and Dr. Michael Eamon for their warm welcome and generous offer of time and words and photos.

I was struck by the feeling of openness and energy running through these key parts of the university. I repeatedly learned of innovative partnerships, community outreach and inclusion, new experiments in thinking and teaching and student support and research.

A strong visual metaphor came to mind...a Trent rowing eight surging towards the finish line...the successful propulsion achieved by the purposeful and committed collaboration.

It gave me great pride to see this dynamism of Trent University, sixty years on.

I concluded my Trent degree as a Julian Blackburn College student as I was only taking one course. The development and growth of part-time studies over many years has an

impressive culmination in what we now refer to as Trent Durham GTA.

JBC, sometimes a college, sometimes a centre has been an important part of the broader evolution of Trent University.

At the TUARP Garden Party at my home in late August (see Gina Collins's remarks) I announced that I would conclude my role as Newsletter Editor at the end of 2025. It is more than 10 years and 20 newsletters since I began.

I hope to recruit a Guest Editor for the Spring 2025 edition and then return for a final newsletter in Autumn 2025.

If you would like to serve in this role, please contact me. TUARP Executive members would very much like to see some new volunteers in other roles as well. Please take part!

As always, many thanks to Abby Richards and colleagues at Alumni Engagement Services for thoughtful and skilful support in the newsletter's production.

And a tip of the hat to wonderful colleagues on the Executive, Gina, Julie, Janice and John.

Staff Co-Chair's Remarks

By Gina Collins

Hello fellow retirees and friends of Trent. As summer comes to a close we are looking forward to seeing all of you at the AGM October 23rd, and the TUARP Christmas reception (date to be determined).

The second annual TUARP garden party was held on a sunny, hot day in August. Once again, thank you to Tony Storey for hosting this event at his home. Thank you to Julie Crook for arranging the refreshments from Black Honey and to Abby Richards '18 and Maddie Davis '17 for their assistance. Thanks also to Naomi Handley, Director of Alumni Engagement and Services. The event was a resounding success attended by faculty and staff retirees, and Trent Vice Presidents and Directors. We thank them

for their support.

Tony welcomed the new President Dr. Cathy Bruce. Dr. Bruce provided a brief update and asked that we send her our responses to the following questions:

1. What is Trent at its best?
2. What do you see for Trent in 10 years time?
3. What do you think is important to pursue in terms of tactics in building broader and deeper community relations?
4. What do I need to know? (What do you think I should know?)

Please email her at cathybruce@trentu.ca.



VP Julie Davis and AVP Sherry Booth presented Gina Collins with her Province of Ontario Volunteer Service Award at the Garden Party.

Peter Gzowski College Celebrates 20th Anniversary

By Principal Melanie Buddle

Peter Gzowski College, Trent's youngest College, officially opened in October 2004. Named after distinguished Canadian broadcaster and former Trent chancellor, Peter Gzowski, the big yellow building was a conversation starter that has grown into a beloved collegiate community with its own unique collection of departments, students, and events. Adored by Canadians, Peter was known as someone who listened and welcomed conversation and diverse

opinions. We have embraced that ethos, in all ways.

It is the case that amongst our 6000+ alumni, the most senior group is not even close to retirement: our most 'senior' alumni would have been 18 or 19 in 2004, and so they are now approaching their 40th birthday. However, we have many Gzowski fellows, faculty, staff, and alumni of all ages - some of whom are retired but who retain their ties to our college.



Peter Gzowski College
2004-2024



Fun Facts about Peter Gzowski College:

- The college community is housed in a big yellow building named Enwayaang, which translates from Anishinaabe as "the way we speak together."
- Artwork housed in the building is almost entirely by First Nations, Inuit and Métis artists (we offer a self-guided art tour: you can come to the building and use [this YouTube link](#)).
- We partner with our collegiate fellows and partners in the First Peoples House of Learning, the School of Business, the Chanie Wenjack School for Indigenous Studies, the Departments of Mathematics and Economics, and the Office of Research and Innovation to provide collegiate luncheons, social programs, workshops and guest lectures
- Students love the bright, open, airy hallways and furniture. They have nicknamed the building "the big Cheese." We also have a newly renovated kitchen that is open to students and staff every day to eat, study, and socialize.
- Peter Gzowski College was designated as the 'successor' college to Peter Robinson College (1964-2003). Our dining hall is named in honour of the historic downtown college, and today we have an engaged group of Peter Robinson alum who have reconnected, to meet with current students, offer mentorship, attend events. and donate to our lively community.
- At our annual awards celebration, we award the Peter Robinson Prize, established by PR students and given to a Gzowski student leader, and the Robert Lightbody Prize, established by the Alumni Association to

honour PR alum Bob Lightbody, along with a host of Gzowski College leadership and academic awards.

- We offer a Peter Robinson and a Peter Gzowski Student Fellowship, thanks to the generosity of donors from both colleges. Successful applicants receive mentorship and an opportunity to experience collegiate governance, and leadership opportunities; in turn, they share their experiences with other students.

- Students can choose to complete a Gzowski College Certificate in: Engagement and Career Readiness, Community Engagement and Leadership, or Cultural, Community and Indigenous Engagement. We also offer a Microcredential in Entrepreneurship and Innovation. All of these programs provide enriched extracurricular engagement experiences to students.



Trent In Oshawa Celebrates 50th Anniversary

By Scott Henderson, VP, Trent Durham

I arrived at Trent's Peterborough campus 40 years ago. As my trusted Chevy Nova rolled up to Champlain College, I was joining a university community of just over 3000 students. Now I find myself fortunate enough to be presiding over a Trent campus of roughly the same size. And what made Trent the attractive choice for me in 1984, still applies in 2024, both in Peterborough and also here, on our Trent University Durham GTA campus in Oshawa. Students are joining an academic community, where faculty, staff, and their fellow students are all there to support

them on their journey. As a Trent alum, it is an absolute honour for me to find myself in this role as Vice-President and Head of the Durham campus. My enthusiasm for Trent has never waned, and I hope that each of our students feels the same sense of belonging and excitement that I did in the '80s. As we reach our 50th anniversary here in Oshawa, and Trent reaches its 60th, I am proud to have been part of that history- one that has made a difference in our community, across the Province, the country and around the world.



Trent In Oshawa: Key Timeline

The following timelines material was prepared by Amy K. Stewart, Library and Information technician field placement student from Seneca Polytechnic in March 2024.

1974: Trent begins offering a small number of part-time courses in Oshawa at Eastdale Collegiate and Vocational Institute. These courses are exclusively available in the evening and the majority who attended are mature students.

1975: Julian Blackburn College is formally established, named in honour of Psychology professor who had died the year before and had

been an advocate for part-time studies.

1977: Senate approves the expansion of courses offered to part-time students and begins offering courses at Durham College.

1984-85: Enrolment of off-campus part-time students reaches 547 in the Fall Winter and 370 in the Summer.

1988: Trent's presence in Oshawa grows to 55 course offerings.

1989: Trent becomes founding partner in New Durham Alliance for Training and Education to

increase opportunities for adults in the Durham region.

1993: Trent students enroll full-time in evening classes at the Oshawa Durham campus, marking the beginning of full-time university programming in Durham.

2001: Over 80 University Centre (Trent, York and Durham College) at Durham students graduate on June 1, 2001.

Ontario government announces opening of University of Ontario Institute of Technology.

2008: Trent's offices consolidate in the Simcoe Building, providing the first dedicated space for Trent University on the Durham College/Ontario Tech campus.

2009: Trent buys the Thornton Road property, which previously had been St. Michael's Catholic Elementary School.

City of Oshawa supports 75-year lease of lands and access to athletic facilities for Trent students.

2010: Thornton Road Campus opens.

2012: On November 22, the Thornton Road Campus wins an Award of Excellence for its architecture at the first City of Oshawa Urban Design Awards.

Trent Oshawa has 850 full-and part-time students.

2014: Joe Muldoon is appointed as first Head of Trent Durham.

2016: Trent Durham celebrates inaugural dedicated convocation ceremony at the Ajax Convention Centre with 111 graduates on June 3, 2016.

2017: City of Oshawa gifts 1.8 acres of land, with an estimated market value of \$1.4 million, to support the growth of Trent University Durham.

As of June 2017, the Durham campus has over 1,000 students.

2019: Master of Management-Trent Durham's first graduate studies program- launches exclusively at the Durham campus.

Campaign for Trent Durham launches with the goal of raising \$5 million towards the expansion of campus.

Alumnus and co-chair Doug Kirk '70 supports the campaign with a \$500,000 gift.

2020: New 200-bed residence and academic building opens in September, featuring 100-seat tiered lecture hall, two 64-seat classrooms, research space, student Common spaces, outdoor green space and faculty offices.

2022: In-person Convocation ceremonies are held for 2020, 2021 and 2022 graduates on June 3, 2022. The 2022 class has a total of 313 graduates.

2023: Trent Durham GTA Advanced Learning Centre opens at 11 Simcoe Street North, marking Trent Durham's expansion into downtown Oshawa.

Enrolment reaches close to 3,000 students by Fall 2023.



Recollections and Reflections on the 60th Anniversary of Trent University and Traill College

By Ian Sandeman

I have many fond memories of my early years at Trent, mainly of Traill College because in those early years the College was where the action was. The new university was founded on the twin concepts of small group teaching and colleges and on the recommendation of Michael Sidnell, a friend in the English Department, that "sanity reigns here" I accepted the invitation to join the Biology Department and Traill College in Trent's second year of operation. After an earlier short visit to get acquainted and provide an opportunity to find a house I drove with my wife Gillian and family from St. John's Newfoundland, where we had been at Memorial University, and arrived in Peterborough in the late summer of 1965.

Teaching labs and lectures for Biology were mainly in Rubidge Hall and student registration, lectures and exams were also held in All Saints Anglican Church Hall. I remember invigilating at All Saints and Bob Stairs appearing at the end of the exam with ice creams for all. The university had bought microscopes and some basic research equipment for me and my office/ research space was surrounded by student rooms upstairs in Scott House. Informality seemed to be at the centre of everything that happened, except perhaps for the sherry served in the College Senior Common Room. Student and faculty numbers were initially small as were senior administrative positions which

were occupied by teaching faculty members appointed as necessary. Growth was a steady constant in the lives of everyone, as was the planning that went along with it. When changes of direction or new policies were needed advisory committees were set up and the resulting recommendations were discussed by the College Councils before decisions were finalized. There was a strong sense of involvement in the life of the college and growth of the university.

The residential side of life at Traill was in the safe hands of the Principal, Marion Fry, and the Dons and there was a strong sense of 'in loco parentis', and responsibility for the young women in their care. At one point I was appointed Senior Tutor with duties particularly in the Supervisory System in which faculty helped students to choose courses and provided help with their academic problems. This was a pleasure because it brought me closer to students I would not normally meet in Biology and also gave me more of a sense of participation in the College operation, rather than just being a member of the Senior Common Room and Traill College Council. The college was initially a collection of houses with Scott House as the focus but with the addition of Wallis Hall and an increasing student population there was pressure to become co- educational. This provided a controversial



topic for consideration by college committees and Council. Another difficult problem in those early years was how to incorporate part-time and summer course students into college life. At that time many area teachers upgraded their qualifications by taking courses at Trent and from the professor's point of view it was wonderful to have a few maturer students in our courses, but their exclusion from the Colleges and their need for a home from home on campus remained a problem for many years.

Of course in those pre-computer days technology was primitive; when multiple copies of documents were needed a stencil had to be typed out first, this had to be carefully checked and corrected before duplication began on a Gestetner Machine. I remember one day my wonderful secretary June Bird with a big smile on her face, proudly showed me her new-fangled "Word Processor" which did it all and saved so much time and effort. One practice which was very helpful as a teacher and Senior Tutor was to have sheets with small 'icon' sized photographs of all students. Of course, as computers came onto the scene they appeared on the desks of the administration and eventually faculty acquired the new technology.

Alas, my close involvement with Traill College did not last long. With the building of the temporary "Staging Building" to house Biology, Psychology and the Animal House I moved to the new facility. This "disastrous factory-type building", in the words of the university architect Ron Thom, actually turned out to be a very flexible and useful building. Biology remained

there until 1991 when it was relocated to the new Environmental Sciences Centre on the east bank of the river. One small perk was the erection of the plastic "Bubble" over the tennis courts, just behind the staging building. The bubble initially enabled tennis to be played through the winter months. However, after a while it was taken down in winter and the area was flooded to make an ice rink. Some of us kept hockey sticks and skates handy and would come out and enjoy some exercise between classes. There was a computer room with a large new computer and I remember being surprised one day to see two nuns from Mount St. Joseph, in full regalia, at the computer console. Looking back, I should not have been surprised-this was in those early exciting years at Trent.

Those first few college focused years were a short phase in the establishment of Trent as a successful modern University. It was my impression that everyone including students, worked extremely hard and enjoyed those efforts to meet every new deadline and challenge of constant growth and change. Were the aims and concept of the founders, on which so much effort was expended, met? No. But in the sixties education was regarded as an investment, even by governments, so the aim to build a university as a community of scholars with small classes was entirely appropriate. Although Trent, like other Universities, has developed to be a corporate edu-business I hope the aspirations of the founders live on today.



Attention all Trillites (and friends of Trill)!

By Principal Michael Eamon

We are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the College on the Hill this year with lots of great activities and a little bit of nostalgia. Dr. Marion Fry started our speaker's series on October 3rd with an evening of her wit and wisdom recounting the earliest days of the university. During this year's Head of the Trent, we had our annual Scarf Ceremony that welcomes our new students (the Class of 2024) and also had a special 60th Anniversary Cruise of the Lift Locks and Little Lake. However, don't worry, if you missed any of the fun. There is something

happening every Thursday evening at Trill this Fall and a partial schedule can be found here:

<https://www.trentu.ca/colleges/trill/60>

We are currently putting the final touches on our winter schedule of events which will culminate with an anniversary dinner in February 2025! Again, keep visiting our 60th Anniversary website for details, or reach out direct to me at michaeleamon@trentu.ca.

Looking forward to seeing you soon at Trill!



Remembering Alan Wilson

By John Wadland

"Helping to build Trent was the greatest privilege and brought the greatest satisfaction of my professional life." (AW)

When I came to Arborstone for my last visit with Alan Wilson in 2023, Andrea asked that I pause briefly. Alan had requested a few minutes more to get ready, to be presentable. Arriving finally at the designated meeting room I was greeted by himself, grinning like a Cheshire cat, thick snowy white hair framing that unmistakable face, illuminating at once its power and its grace. Alan was at his sartorial best, impeccably attired in a nicely ironed green T-shirt with "TRENT" boldly emblazoned in large white letters across the front.

There are many here whose memories of Alan reach back much farther than mine, but our deep friendship of over 50 years, much of it growing out of an intensive working relationship, gave me a connection that I hope legitimizes my standing before you, not merely to grieve our shared loss but to rejoice in Alan's legacy. I know intimately that legacy at Trent, what began as a small undergraduate university in Peterborough, Ontario. Many of you know the many other legacies Alan left behind, and I trust that we can share stories of these as we gather after these more formal proceedings.

I first met Alan Wilson at the bar in Toronto's Windsor Arms Hotel in the fall of 1971. He was waiting for me to arrive and greeted me warmly at the door. "Hi!" he said, unceremoniously, and without one wasted word: "I think you're looking for me. My name's Wilson." Right away any nervousness I might have harboured evaporated. This academic did not take himself too seriously.

The position I had applied for was the first to be advertised by Trent University in the new interdisciplinary field of Canadian Studies – a program that had been promised by the University's President, Tom Symons, in his formal address at the founding of the university in 1964.

Having proved his mettle as founding Chair of Trent's outstanding History Department, Alan was ready for the challenge of heading up the committee that would create this new program. I was ultimately hired as the first appointment by his committee of colleagues.

As a Historian, Alan had cut his disciplinary teeth at several different universities - as student, professor and internationally respected visiting lecturer. Donald Creighton, who supervised his dissertation at the University of Toronto, was the Canadian History guru of his day. But the complexities of interdisciplinarity demanded a complete rethink of established pedagogical practice common in all those contexts. It was without precedent. Alan deftly asserted his leadership with his time worn strategy of phoning the members of the committee (all carefully selected from different disciplines) the week before any decisive meeting, persuading each of them that his idea was their idea. Alan's central idea was that thematics should centre Canadian Studies. The domestic thematics surviving the original process of selection included "Indigeneity", "Regionalism", "Environment", "Communities and Identities", "Culture and Communication" – each with its detailed subset of headings. Each core thematic was the product of a cluster of faculty members from different disciplines informing and challenging one another in a pedagogical ecology founded upon the premise that Canada's narrative was a cross pollination of many disciplines and could never be the statement of merely one.

The first course Alan contributed to the Canadian Studies Program fit perfectly under the rubric of "Regionalism". Those of you who rejoiced in Alan's famous itinerant course with SCANS should know that its seeds were first planted at Trent by the founding Chair of the Canadian Studies Program – and to the same enthusiastic applause. Preparing and teaching the course "The Development of the Atlantic

Professor Emeritus John Wadland delivered the eulogy for Alan Wilson on July 5th at the Memorial Service for Alan and Budge Wilson at St. Andrew's United Church in Halifax.

Provinces" helped Alan survive Upper Canada, holding out each summer's promise of his return to Northwest Cove.

A recipient of the prestigious Symons Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1987, Alan was revered by his students. His courses and guest lectures were models not merely of his dedicated research regimen but of his love of conversation with young people. He was a demanding scholar, but his expectations were couched in great good humour and abundant forgiveness. He was a magnificent listener and editor, challenging his students to reach beyond the obvious, to plumb the depths of difference, to grasp the meaning and necessity of critical analytical thinking - which began with the understanding that everything is connected to everything else.

Measures of the loyalty this inspired in his students are legion. There are very few faculty members at Trent to have more scholarships, prizes or awards gifted by former students to the university's endowment in their name.

When the Alan Wilson Reading Room at Traill College was donated and dedicated by former students, friends, and faculty colleagues, we asked Michael Cullen, a History graduate and professional photographer, to capture the image of Alan that graces its entrance. This photograph was taken simultaneously with news reaching Alan that Carolyn Thomson, an outstanding graduate from the young Program, had died of cancer at 29, leaving her entire estate as a Canadian Studies Scholarship. The bay window in the Wilson Room looks out upon a beautiful maple tree planted in memory of Carolyn at Alan's request. This very same photograph graced Alan's obituary, spontaneously chosen by Glynis and Andrea before they even knew this story.

Dr. Mary Northway, a leading psychologist in the early days of the University of Toronto's Institute of Child Study, was granddaughter of the subject of Alan's 1965 biography, John Northway: A Blue Serge Canadian. This study is considered one of the seminal texts in the field of Canadian Business History. It cemented Mary Northway's long friendship with Budge and Alan, resulting in her bequeathing her entire estate to the Canadian Studies Program and Trent.

The beating heart of this donation was Windy Pine, a beautiful 25-acre lakeside property 90 minutes north of Peterborough. It has served as the Canadian Studies Conference Centre since 1982.

Windy Pine required constant maintenance, happily becoming one of Alan's vehicles for community building. He gleefully corralled students and faculty for weekend work parties, all in the service of protecting this precious gift. It became a departmental meeting venue, a research base, an environmentally protected site to bring Canadian Studies students and international scholars together to participate in seminars, workshops and conferences. Perhaps most importantly, in late night conversations around its warming fireplace, it provided Alan - emboldened by a modest tipple of Laphroaig single malt - the opportunity of opening less guarded conversations into his favourite Canadian topics.

From the outset, Alan Wilson seized on the necessity to provide the Canadian Studies Program autonomy by raising resources to support endowments. He held out the growing strength of the exciting program he had played a major role in fostering as ample grounds justifying the support of granting agencies, foundations and individuals. Before very long the Canadian Studies Program boasted one of the largest endowments of any Trent department, making possible to this day bilingual student conferences, travel expenses for young researchers, course field trips to remote Indigenous communities and to sister universities in Quebec - most especially l'Université de Sherbrooke et l'Université de Québec à Trois Rivières.

Alan was devoted to protecting Trent's uniqueness as a small liberal arts and science university where undergraduate teaching was the centrepiece of moral striving and from which everything valuable grew. Symbolic early evidence of the value of this perspective was captured, still in the 1970s, by the first two Trent students to achieve Rhodes Scholarships - one a graduate in History, the other a joint major in Canadian Studies and History.

In 2022, Canadian Studies celebrated its 50th Anniversary at Trent University, under its new

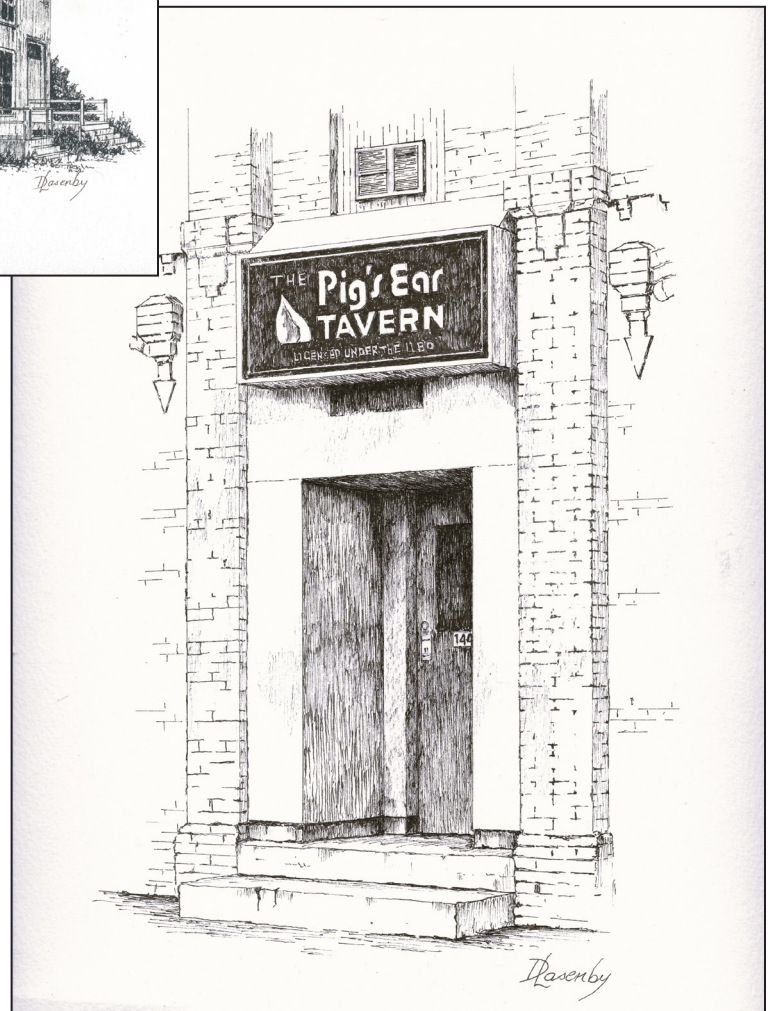
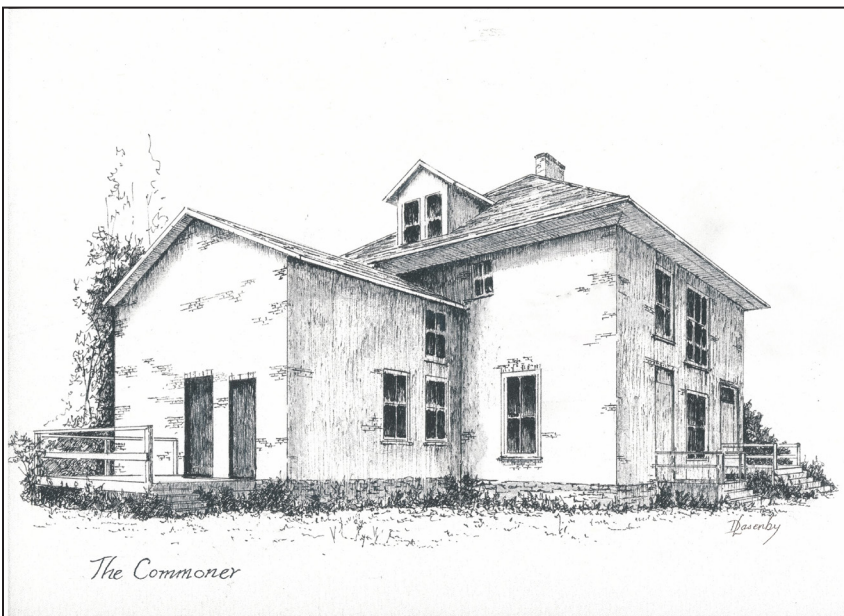
name, School for the Study of Canada. On the strength of its interdisciplinary birthright, it has succeeded over the past several years in adding both MA and PhD Programs, sending off many of its brightest graduates to teach and conduct research at universities across Canada. Alan Wilson's very unconventional experience of academe has underwritten that of his colleagues and intellectual descendants leaving an extraordinary legacy of pedagogy, publication

and service.

If Canadian Studies at Trent were considered a symphony orchestra, Alan Wilson was its Maestro. Better than any of us he understood that the music we made required myriad unique instruments from diverse traditions playing in unison. He invited us to share together in calling the tune, and together I believe we have created some truly beautiful music.

Favourite Watering Holes

Illustrations by David Lasenby



TUARP PURPOSES

[From the Constitution of the Association of Faculty and Staff Retirees of Trent University. Approved October 24, 2001]

1. To facilitate the continuing association of its members with Trent University and each other.
2. To safeguard and represent the interests of its members with Trent University and with faculty and staff unions.
3. To monitor the pension and benefits entitlements of its members.
4. To serve as a potential resource pool of expertise and knowledge for the benefit of Trent University

Annual Dues Notice

Voluntary TUARP dues payment of \$10 is invited. Members may pay at the meeting or by Interac banking transfer.

Add TUARP to your banking app list of payees and send to tuarp@trentu.ca.

Reminder to Update Contact Information

Don't miss TUARP newsletters or meeting notices – remember to keep your contact information up to date! If you have moved, changed phone numbers or email addresses, be sure to update your profile by visiting <http://www.mycommunity.trentu.ca/myprofile> or emailing advancementservices@trentu.ca

Contribute to the next issue!

The Editor warmly invites submissions for the next issue, with a deadline in spring 2025. They may be sent to tonystorey71@gmail.com.

Past issues of TUARP Times are posted on the TUARP website: <http://mycommunity.trentu.ca/alumni>.

TUARP Executive

Staff Co-Chair: Gina Collins gcollins@trentu.ca

Faculty Co-Chair: to be determined

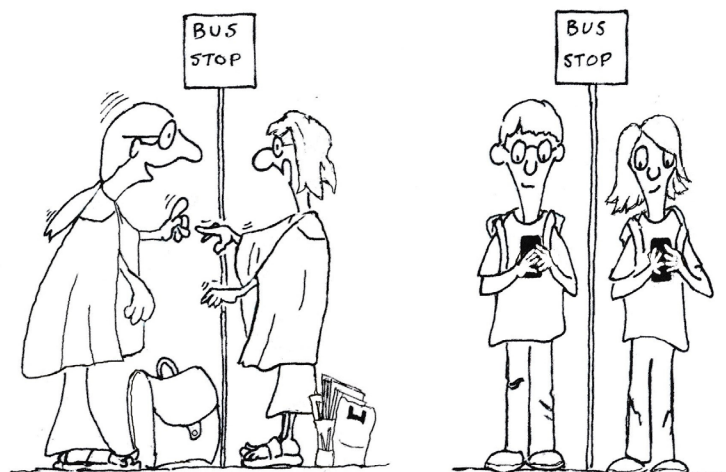
Secretary: Janice Millard jmillard@trentu.ca

Treasurer: John Casserly jcasserly@trentu.ca

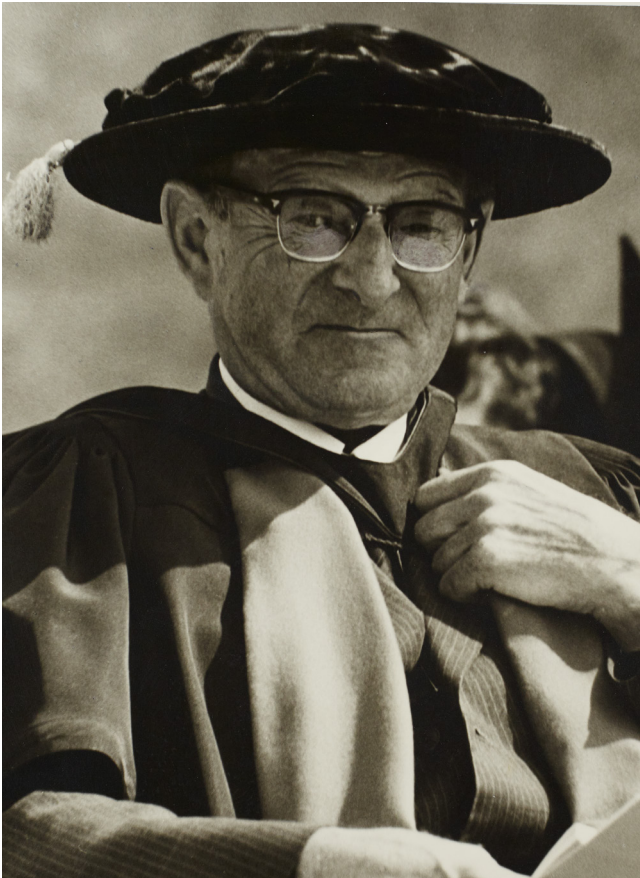
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TUARP acknowledges with thanks the financial assistance of Trent University.



THEN NOW
Cartoon by David Lasenby



Julian Blackburn



Marion Fry, Founding Principal
Trail College



Lionel Rubinoff, Vice-Dean and Principal
Julian Blackburn College 1981-85



David Newhouse, Founding Principal
Peter Gzowski College